



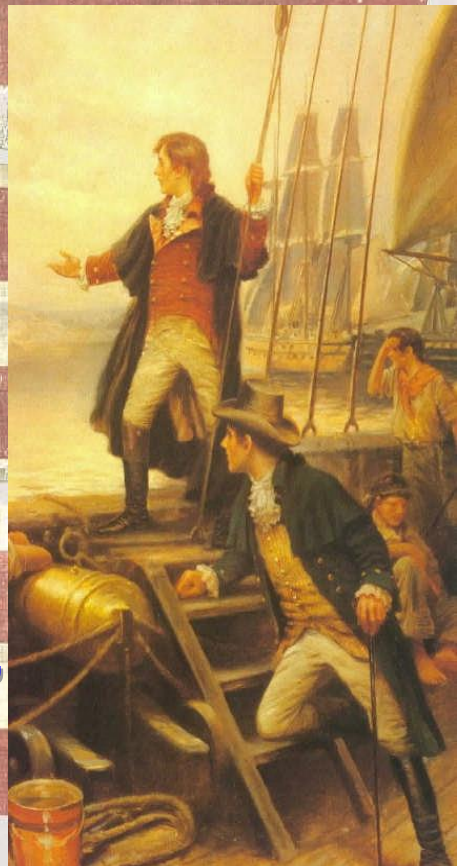
STAR-SPANGLED BANNER WEEKEND

September 12-14, 2008

194th Anniversary

of the writing of

"The Star-Spangled Banner"



What is Defenders' Day?

Defenders' Day commemorates the writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner," the National Anthem, and the successful defense of Baltimore City during the War of 1812. The holiday honors all individuals who contributed to the victory in 1814 - soldiers, sailors and citizens.

Citizens from all walks of life and diverse backgrounds rallied to defend the city from British invasion. They dug entrenchments, made ammunition, and improved forts such as Fort McHenry. One eyewitness remarked "white and black are all at work together... There is no distinction whatsoever." Over 15,000 citizen soldiers, or "militia" from Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania reinforced the city's defenses.

On September 12, 1814, American militia fought professional British soldiers at the Battle of North Point eight miles from Baltimore. They inflicted over 300 casualties and mortally wounded the British land commander, Major General Robert Ross. The tenacity of Baltimore's militia and the entrenchments outside the city convinced the British to cancel their land attack.

The British naval assault on Fort McHenry began the following day. Francis Scott Key immortalized the bombardment with the words "the rockets red glare and bombs bursting in air. . ." In spite of 25 hours of continuous shelling, the defenders of the fort held firm. As the British sailed away the defenders hoisted a large 30 x 42-foot American flag over the fort, inspiring Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Defenders' Day has been celebrated every year since 1814 and was proclaimed a Maryland State Holiday in 1908.

Friday, September 12

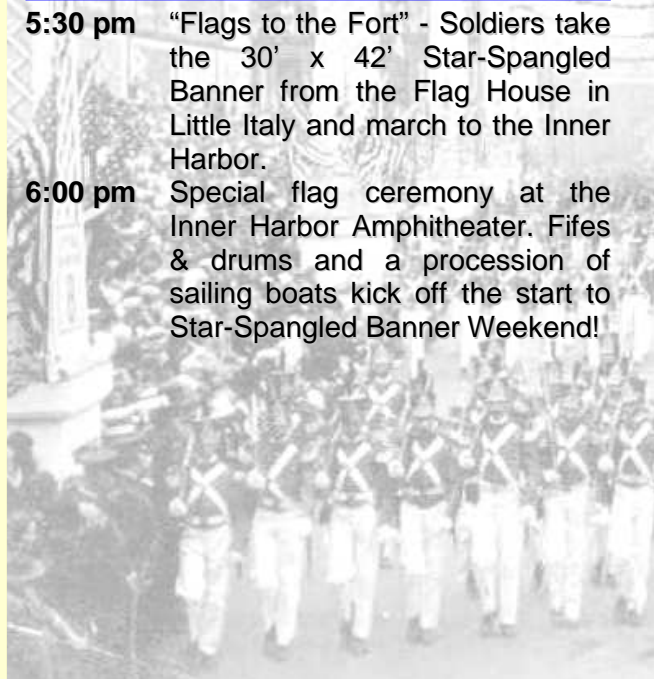
10:00 am - 1:00 pm "Young Defenders"

Young Defenders is the largest curriculum-based educational program at Fort McHenry. Sponsored by The Friends of Fort McHenry, Living Classrooms Foundation and National Park Service, Young Defenders brings over 1,000 Baltimore City school students to Fort McHenry to learn about the heroic defense of 1814 and the writing of the National Anthem. Held on the second Friday in September, students actively participate in flag talks, serve on a cannon crew, "drill" as U.S. soldiers, tour the fort, experience civilian life, learn about African-American defenders in 1814, and even meet Francis Scott Key and Mayor of Baltimore Shelia Dixon!



5:30 pm "Flags to the Fort" - Soldiers take the 30' x 42' Star-Spangled Banner from the Flag House in Little Italy and march to the Inner Harbor.

6:00 pm Special flag ceremony at the Inner Harbor Amphitheater. Fifes & drums and a procession of sailing boats kick off the start to Star-Spangled Banner Weekend!



Saturday, September 13

- 10:00 am** Dress parade & flag raising
11:00 am War on the Chesapeake - cannon demonstration on water battery
12:00 pm "Lest We Forget" wreath-laying
12:20 pm "The Burning of Washington & Birth of the Anthem" - author Anthony Pitch
2:00 pm "The Sounds of Battle" – musket firing tactical demonstration
3:30 pm War on the Chesapeake - cannon demonstration on water battery
4:00 pm Fife & drum concert in Fort
4:30 pm Flag Change
5:00 pm *Star-Spangled Spectacular* (ticketed fundraising event)
6:00 pm *FREE* Evening program begins

Sunday, September 14

- 9:00 am** Singing of Star-Spangled Banner
194th anniversary on the exact day and at the exact time of the historic flag raising "o'er the ramparts" & the writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner"!
11:00 am "Defend the Battery" - cannon & musket firing demonstration
1:00 pm "Artillery Thunder" - cannon demonstration
2:00 pm Dress parade & military review

Defenders' Day 1914

EVENING PROGRAM Saturday, September 13

194th Defenders' Day Ceremony!

★ **FREE** ★

6:00 pm

Welcome by Alan Walden
Master of Ceremonies

Greetings by Gay Vietzke
Superintendent of Fort McHenry NM&HS

Dennis Reidenbach
NPS Director, Northeast Region

Del Parks
Lt. Col. Maryland Army National Guard (retired)

Nelson Bolton
President, Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland
John Olszewski Jr.
Delegate, District 6, Baltimore County

Brian McHale
Delegate, District 46, Baltimore City

Jerome Stephens
representing The Hon. Benjamin Cardin
U.S. Senator, Maryland

The Honorable John Sarbanes
U.S. Representative, Third District, Maryland

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor of Maryland

Invocation
Reverend Mr. Moser, Chaplain Fort McHenry Guard

Pledge of Allegiance

Douglas Jimerson
Songs from Early America

Tactical Demonstration
Troops will demonstrate battle tactics from 1814

Society of African-American Arts & Culture
Spirituals from Early America

Presentation of the Francis Scott Key Award
Friends of Fort McHenry

Concert by the Chesapeake Concert Band
Ship to shore "bombardment" of the Fort

Hoisting of the Star-Spangled Banner
National Anthem

Sung by Geraldine Diamond
GRAND FIREWORKS DISPLAY at dusk
by Zambelli's Inc.

Weekend Sponsors:



haleysharpedesign



The National Park Service would like to thank the following organizations for their assistance:

Friends of Fort McHenry
Society of the War of 1812, Maryland
The Office of the Mayor of Baltimore
The City of Baltimore
The Baltimore Police Department
Baltimore City Fire Department
Baltimore Department of Transportation
US Naval Reserve Training Center Fort McHenry
Chesapeake Concert Band
2nd Battalion, 110th Field Artillery,
Maryland Army National Guard
Fort McHenry Business Association
Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association
The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House
Ship's Co. 1800 (living history)
Virginia Militia, 1812 (living history)
7th US Infantry (living history)
US Marine Corps Historical Company (living history)
5th Maryland Regiment (living history)
20th US Infantry (living history)
25th US Infantry (living history)
Aisquith's Sharpshooters (living history)
Baltimore United Volunteers (living history)
1st Regiment Royal Scots (living history)
Royal Marines (living history)
Dorchester Skipjack Committee, Inc.,
Nathan of Dorchester
Fort McHenry Guard
Volunteers-in-Parks, Fort McHenry
Smith Marine, Inc.
Zambelli's Fireworks

The Friends of Fort McHenry

The Friends of Fort McHenry are the primary private, non-profit group that supports Fort McHenry. By working with Baltimore-area businesses, the Living Classrooms Foundation and the National Park Service, the Friends are instrumental in sponsoring summer ceremonies, educational programs and the Star-Spangled Banner Weekend. Last year alone, The Friends were responsible for bringing over 1,000 Baltimore City school students to Fort McHenry for special curriculum-based educational programs.

The Friends need your help! Consider joining. Volunteers, membership and tax deductible donations are welcome. Please call Kathleen Kreul, Director, Friends of Fort McHenry, at 410-962-4290 Ext. 222 or email:

Kathleen@friendsoffortmchenry.org

